

## Message Text

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56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 /090 W

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O R 011627Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 633

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV

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SUBJECT: 25TH CONGRESS: AGENDA AND LEADERSHIP INDICATORS

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSION ON BREZHNEV'S CC REPORT ENDED MORNING OF MARCH 1 WITH BRIEF SPEECH BY BREZHNEV AND UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REPORT. AFTERNOON SESSION HEARD KOSYGIN DELIVER HIS ECONOMIC REPORT, WHICH LENT CREDENCE TO RUMOR THAT CONGRESS WILL WIND UP ON THURSDAY, MARCH 4 VICE MARCH 5. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET NEWS MEDIA REPORTED MID-MORNING MARCH 1 THAT DEBATE HAD ENDED ON CC REPORT AND THAT BREZHNEV HAD MADE A BRIEF CLOSING SPEECH. TEXT OF SPEECH AS CARRIED BY TASS MUST HAVE TAKEN ONLY SEVERAL MINUTES TO READ (WE NOTE THAT BREZHNEV'S CORRESPONDING SPEECH AT THE 24TH CONGRESS WAS SIMILARLY BRIEF). IN IT, BREZHNEV NOTED THAT CC'S PLANS FOR FUTURE. HE CHARACTERIZED TONE OF DEBATE AS SERIOUS, SELF-CRITICAL AND DEMANDING, OPTIMISTIC AND SELF-CONFIDENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE "GOOD WORDS" ADDRESSED TO HIM PERSONALLY BUT ADDED THAT SUCCESSES ACHIEVED SHOULD BE REGARDED AS "THE RESULT OF THE COLLECTIVE WORK, OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE PARTY BODIES AND OF ALL THE PARTY COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS." BREZHNEV CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR CONCENTRATION "ON THE SHORTCOMINGS WE STILL HAVE, ON UNSOLVED TASKS."

3. ACCORDING TO TASS, THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CC REPORT:

-- GAVE FULL APPROVAL TO THE POLICY LINE AND PRACTICES OF THE CC;

-- APPROVED THE CC REPORT AND PROPOSED THAT ALL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS BE GUIDED BY THE PROPOSALS AND PROBLEMS LEONID BREZHNEV SET FORTH.

4. THE MARCH 1 MORNING SESSION ENDED WITH APPROVAL OF AN APPEAL, READ BY PONOMAREV, ENTITLED "FREEDOM TO THE PRISONERS OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION."

5. THERE HAS BEEN CONFUSION ABOUT THE LENGTH OF THE CONGRESS SINCE MFA PRESS DIVISION CHIEF SOFINSKIY'S PRE-CONGRESS PRESS BRIEFING IN WHICH HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE CONGRESS WOULD END. ALTHOUGH A SOVIET SPOKESMAN RECENTLY TOLD U.S. NEWSMEN THAT THE FINAL DAY WOULD BE FRIDAY-MARCH 5, AN UNOFFICIAL SOVIET SOURCE TOLD US TODAY THAT THE AFFAIR DEFINITELY WOULD END THURSDAY, MARCH 4. SOVIET MEDIA ANNOUNCED AT 3:00P.M. MARCH 1 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT KOSYGIN WOULD DELIVER HIS ECONOMIC REPORT AT THAT DAY'S AFTERNOON SESSION (ONE-HALF DAY EARLIER THAN AT THE 24TH CONGRESS), LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS LATEST RUMOR.

6. SOME RECENT INDICATORS OF LEADERSHIP STATUS ARE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST BUT SEEM INCONCLUSIVE. THE LIST OF CONGRESS CHAIRMEN THUS FAR INCLUDES BREZHNEV, SUSLOV, KIRELENKO, PODGORNYY, PEL'SHE, SHCHERBITSKIY AND KUNAYEV. THIS SUGGESTS A BOOST FOR SHCHER-

BITSKIY, WHO WAS GIVEN THE GAVEL IN ADVANCE OF SENIOR POLITBURO MEMBERS GRISHIN, KULAKOV AND MAZUROV. A LARGE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING SUSLOV AND PONOMAREV TOGETHER WITH BREZHNEV AND CUNHAL WAS CARRIED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS FEBRUARY 29. KIRILENKO RECEIVED PROMINENT TELEVISION COVERAGE THAT DAY AS HE SPOKE AT THE UNVEILING OF THE "ALL UNION BOARD OF HONOR" IN MOSCOW. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RECEIVED SHARP CRITICISM FROM SEVERAL SPEAKERS FEBRUARY 28 (REPORTED SEPARATELY), ALTHOUGH POLYANSKIY WAS NOT PERSONALLY MENTIONED.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD NO EXPLANATION FOR THE POSSIBLE SHORTENING OF THE CONGRESS BY ONE DAY (AS COMPARED WITH THE 24TH CONGRESS). ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT A MEETING OF RULING PARTIES MAY BE IN THE WORKS FOR MARCH 5.  
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## Message Attributes

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